



The Public Service Commission State of South Carolina

Bruce F. Duke
Executive Director
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March 15, 2004

EMAIL & US MAIL

Patrick W. Turner
Attorney
BellSouth
1600 Williams Street, Suite 5200
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Mr. Turner:

The Pleading which you filed on behalf of BellSouth BSE, Inc. and BellSouth Long Distance, Inc. has been duly received and assigned Docket No. 2004-45-C.

In order to proceed with the processing of this Docket, it will be necessary for you to accomplish the following:

Publish, at your own expense, on or before **March 19, 2004**, the enclosed Notice, in newspapers of general circulation, in the affected areas, one time and provide the undersigned Proof of Publication on or before **March 26, 2004**.

Failure to comply with the above on or before the dates indicated may result in the **DISMISSAL** of your pleading.

In the meantime, should you require additional information, please advise.

Sincerely yours,

Bruce F. Duke
Executive Director

BFD:

Enclosure

BELLSOUTH BSE AND BELLSOUTH LONG DISTANCE REQUEST APPROVAL OF MERGER

BellSouth BSE, Inc. (BSE) and BellSouth Long Distance, Inc. (BSLD) jointly filed an Application with the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (Commission) for the Commission's approval of the merger of BSE into BSLD. BSE intends to merge all its assets BSLD, including without limitations the following: accounts receivable, BSE's customer base, and Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity.

A copy of the Application is on file in the offices of the Public Service Commission of South Carolina, Synergy Business Park, Saluda Building, 101 Executive Center Drive, Columbia, South Carolina and is available through Patrick W. Turner, Attorney representing BellSouth BSE, Inc. and BellSouth Long Distance, Inc., BellSouth, 1600 Williams Street, Suite 5200, Columbia, South Carolina 29201.

Any person who wishes to testify and present evidence at a hearing, if scheduled, should notify Bruce F. Duke, Executive Director, at the address below, and Patrick W. Turner, at the previously stated address, in writing, on or before **April 2, 2004**, and indicate the amount of time required for his presentation. Please refer to **Docket No. 2004-45-C**.

Any person who wishes to present his views to the Public Service Commission may do so in writing, on or before **April 2, 2004**. Please refer to **Docket No. 2004-45-C**.

Any person who wishes to participate in this matter, as a party of record should file a Petition to Intervene in accordance with the Commission's Procedures, on or before **April 2, 2004**. Please refer to **Docket No. 2004-45-C**.

Persons seeking information about the Commission's Procedures should contact the Commission by dialing (803) 896-5105.

BRUCE F. DUKE
Executive Director
Public Service Commission of South Carolina
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